Hollywood Reporter

Television

A BLACK VIEW OF SOUTH AFRICA
CBS-TV, Dec. 15, 10:30-11:00 p.m.

"A Black View of South Africa," is an illegal film, taken by black Africans using cameras and films that were sneaked into the country. It's illegal because it depicts life in that country of the majority of blacks. The men who shot the film are now expatriots, banned forever, or until conditions and the government change, which doesn't seem to likely in the near future. When the film first aired on England's BBC network, South Africa protested. Irv Drasnin and Perry Wolff were respectively the producer and executive producer for CBS. Nana Mahomo, a black South African, was the original producer and editor of the film.

Although the film touched on the economic situation for blacks, telling the wage differences of $395 a month for whites and $63 for blacks, and the squalid living quarters for blacks, the show delved more into the government laws that regulate the white and black populace.

Blacks must be off the streets of the white cities from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m. unless they carry a passbook and an explanation from their white employers. They must carry a passbook at all times. It consists of 90 pages that tell a whole life history because they can be stopped at any time for any reason and told to produce it. Without that passbook, blacks cannot marry, withdraw money from their bank account or even die and be buried.

John Hart, who did the CBS narration, stated that South Africa for the last ten years has not allowed any CBS journalists into the country nor many other journalists either. One of the few they have allowed in was Carl Rowan. Both Rowan and the South African government were asked to speak on the show. The government refused.

Carl Rowan, who did appear, said that the major fault of the film was that it did not show enough of the degradation and fear in South Africa of blacks and whites. He also stated that he did not feel that peaceful change can come about. Only outside pressure. He related his impression of the hopelessness that exists among the blacks of that country after many interviews with blacks. The most lasting impression of the show was an interview that Rowan said he had with a black woman who said of Americans, "We deplore, and we ignore, but the shame goes on."

What was described in this film could not explain the total picture of the country. Nor was it a particularly good film technically speaking with its mixture of color and black and white film and its somewhat grainy quality. But this was explained in the beginning. What it was was a probing, fascinating half hour about a condition that is almost incomprehensible.

Nana Mahomo's narration on the film was told in a storytelling fashion, not so much seeking sympathy as laying open facts with an honesty that was needling to say the least.

—Collette Wood.

Brooke Bundy signed by Producers [illegible]

Smuggled, unpretty look at South Africa

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By Percy Shain
Globe Staff

BLACK VIEW OF SO. AFRICA

Though the facts of apartheid in South Africa are well known, it took this illegally made film smuggled out of the country to bring full impact of this monstrosity to American viewers last night.

Shots taken by hidden cameras showed how the "other four-fifths," the 15 million blacks, live in squalor and proverty in fenced-in townships, barred from the wide open park areas and affluent sections made possible by the $900 million pulled annually from the diamond and gold mines by those black workers.

Unbelievable statistics of the vast discrepancies between 3½ million whites and the blacks in wages, health care, education, mortality, and food accompanied the showing, in a narration made by South African expatriate Nana Mahomo, new in Europe, who produced and edited the film.

This CBS version was a rather brief one — lasting barely 20 minutes — of the work first shown on British TV, where the South African government labeled it "malicious." The rest of the half-hour was taken up with a stirring plea by Carl Rowan, former USIA head, to the American conscience to do something about this disgrace.

"We deplore, we ignore —and the shame goes on," he said in one of the most biting documentaries seen on the airwaves in a long time.

★

Consumer's Quiz

Of excepional merit as a public service feature is this informative and entertaining half-hour test that will give viewers valuable pointers on their rights and responsibilities when they feel they have been victimized in the trade market.

Locally produced and sponsored, "Consumer's Quiz" will fill the "Governor and J. J." slot at 8:30 tonight on Ch. 5's schedule, when it will present 16 familiar situations and give the viewing audience a chance to decide whether the victim has any legal or moral redress.

Actors from Play Project, a Boston dramatic workshop, improved the various predicaments to test consumer knowledge, each ending in a freeze frame and an interludè to cast your vote.

Among the areas covered: return merchandise, price marking, repairs of various types, obscene mail, cleaning damage, sales pitches and offers, tricky wording, and other sources of friction between buyer and seller.

The answers to some questions will be a revelation and all will be of benefit to those who have ever suffered an aggravation and wondered what they could do about it. About

producer and director. The show is capably co-hosted by Chet Curtis and Rosemarie Van Camp.

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Music Hall

Jerry Stiller and Anne Meara, who are featured on Music Hall's comedy revue, "Love and Marriage," which concludes tonight on NBC (Ch. 4 at 9), have been a comedy team for eight years. But they have been married twice as long —16 years.

They started as dramatic actors, trying to make it independently in quick-closing shows, until Jerry got the idea of putting a comedy act together "because I realized that Anne had an instinct for saying funny things at the right time."

They literally "bombed out" in their debut at New York's Village Gate, whe the material Jerry ha painstakingly put togethe in advance proved abso lutely useles. They had t have Anne's father baby sitting Amy, their bran new daughter, in thos days.

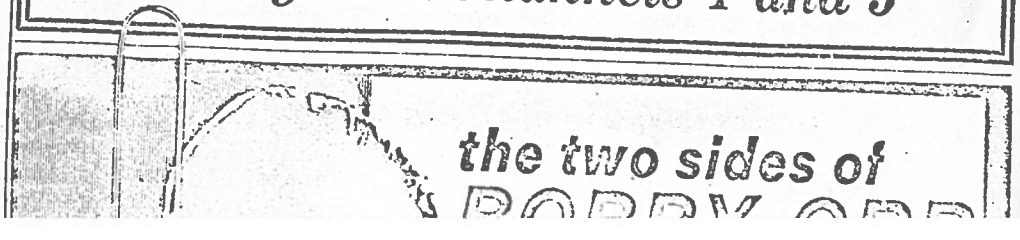
Jerry wanted to abando the whole entertainmen scene and start a smal poultry business "but wouldn't let him 'chicken out,' " said his wife.

See the Lighting of Our National Christmas Tree

The President and the First Family celebrate with all Americans the traditional lighting of our National Christmas Tree at The White House.

The world-famous Mormon Tabernacle Choir will sing classic renditions of well-known Christmas songs . . . old and new.

Tune in "Pageant of Peace"
Today/5:30/Channels 4 and 5



Boston Globe
Dec. 1970

...e One? RADIO

...nd Featured; ...w of S. Africa

GARDELLA

...cer of Friday night's ABC ...ey Robinson Show," put his ...pot. Right on the reason why

Smokey Robinson

Jimmy Durante

...ahann Carroll. Singer Shirley Bassey will headline one and Paul Anka still another, and on March 23, one featuring Engelbert Humperdinck will be presented. "These are network quality shows," he said, "aimed specifically at the syndicated market."

Fit the Performer

Barnett, who has so far turned out 14 such specials, claims they're "stylized" to fit the performer. He thinks the most successful way to present such an artist is to take the material they've been successful with and use it to play with the audience. The relationship between the performer and the audience is important, he says. That's where errors were made, he thinks, in showcasing Tom Jones and Engelbert Humperdinck. They have to go after the individual, not just the record buying audience.

The Motown sound is a "now" sound, a "sock-it-to-me, baby," sound and the look is "different and highly stylized," insists Barnett. So for Friday night's special he plans a far-out presentati n, with interesting light patterns and plenty of distractions. He has confidence in the hour and hopes "it will go through the ceiling."

"In fact," he said, "if you set your sights high and have good taste, the field is wide open for such hours. There are over 200 markets, plus 38 foreign countries to sell to, plus the fact that stations can run a special several times."

Their Plight:

Brave men are often constrained by their search for dignity to provide the world with a record of the degradation and oppression they have suffered. A group of black South Africans did that last night on a conscience-stirring CBS special. Risking imprisonment or possibly death, they used hidden cameras to record the life of the black man under the cruel and dehumanizing apartheid system in South Africa. They then smuggled the film to England where it was telecast by the BBC and last night it was American viewers' turn.

The program was a litany of the evils of racism with the blacks blocked from any political representation, being virtual economic slaves and social pariahs, accorded segregated and substandard housing, given little education and harassed by the state and the police. CBS made capital of the fact that American newsmen find it hard to get into South Africa and thus the need for exposure from within.

Jimmy Scores:

Don Knotts was right last night. There's only one Jimmy Durante. And for a little while during the NBC Knotts hour some show business magic was made when Jimmy straddled a chair in his unique fashion and sang, "Beautiful Girl." When the pros are on, we can see the flaws in everybody else. Durante is still the greatest.

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By Kay Gardella